

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 22.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
  - a grass mower having at least one cutting unit;
  - a grass catcher positioned adjacent the cutting unit, the grass catcher being a one-piece molded box-like structure having a pair of side panels, an upper panel and a lower panel, and an opening between the upper panel and lower panel facing the cutting unit, and at least one retaining structure integrally formed with the lower panel adjacent the opening; and
  - a reinforcing rod member extending laterally across the lower panel and firmly gripped by and restrained against lateral and axial movement by the at least one retaining structure.
2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reinforcing rod member is generally cylindrical in shape.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least three retaining structures formed integrally with the lower panel adjacent the opening.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retaining structure is a channel.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retaining structure is a passage.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the retaining structure is an offset structure.
7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least some of the reinforcing rod member is at least partially exposed facing upwardly.
8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reinforcing rod

~~member~~ is metal.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one access hole in a side panel through which the reinforcing rod ~~member~~ is inserted.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the grass mower is a reel-type mower.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the internal dimensions of the at least one retaining structure are not larger than the outer cross sectional dimension of the reinforcing rod ~~member~~.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a one-piece box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher having a rear-facing opening and a lower panel with an elevated lip at the opening;

a reinforcing rod ~~member~~ extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower panel near the elevated lip; and

at least one plastic retaining structure integrally formed with the box-shaped molded plastic grass catcher through which the reinforcing rod ~~member~~ may be press fitted.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a pair of opposing side panels on each side of the one-piece box-shaped plastic grass catcher, and an access hole through at least one of the opposing side panels through which the reinforcing rod ~~member~~ may be inserted.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the reinforcing rod ~~member~~ is a cylindrical metal rod.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the at least one plastic retaining structure is an offset structure.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the reinforcing rod

~~member~~ has a length less than the span between the pair of opposing side panels.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a reinforced one-piece molded plastic grass catcher for a reel-type mower having an opening with a lower lip, a reinforcing rod ~~member~~ extending laterally across at least a portion of the lower lip, and retaining structures formed integrally with the lower lip being the only structures gripping the reinforcing rod ~~member~~ in place.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the reinforced grass catcher further comprises a plastic box-like structure having walls with substantially uniform thickness, each of the integral retaining structures having substantially the same thickness as the walls.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising a lower wall and wherein the lower lip is in a horizontal plane above at least some portions of the lower wall.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the integral retaining structures have an internal dimension, and the reinforcing rod ~~member~~ has an outer cross sectional dimension no smaller than the internal dimension of the integral retaining structures.